

Contributions

"THE ACCEPTED TIME"

A. J. HIXSON

"Behold *now* is the accepted time," II Cor. 6:2. This language implies opportunity and urges that the privileges be improved. In the scriptures there are many passages inviting us to the same thought.

"He that gathereth in summer is a wise son." The accepted time to gather is when we have the opportunity. If the summer is permitted to pass by with its fruitfulness and we fail to gather, the opportunity is gone and no amount of regrets can ever avail. The accepted time is now. How true this fact presents itself in the language of the "Weeping Prophet," "The harvest is past, the summer is ended and we are not saved." The opportunity was neglected, the summer passed by and "we are not saved."

The accepted time was unimproved and now it is too late. So many procrastinate their return to God until it is too late. A loving Father kindly entreats "My son give me thy heart." When? "Now is the accepted time." To delay so important a matter as saving the soul, is the extremest folly. Excuses will not do. It is an individual matter and every one should strive to get all out of life possible. If others will not, "What is that to thee? follow thou me." God only can save, and "now is the accepted time."

"When once the Master of the house is risen up, and hath shut the door and ye begin to stand without and knock at the door, saying Lord, Lord, open unto us, and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are." What a realization of fact that the accepted time is past beyond recovery. Remorse will then fill the soul.

The foolish virgins neglected the opportunity for filling their lamps at the accepted time, and when the door was shut and it was heard from within, "I know you not" who can imagine the dismay that filled the soul. Why reject the accepted time? Imagine Jesus in all his loveliness, justice and mercy standing with extended hands inviting you to come, who would say no? What particular teaching of Jesus can we object to? The infidel has never found one. He only assails the weaknesses of Christ's professed followers. Kind reader will you heed the admonition? Then may come a time when it will be in vain, when cries will be fruitless.

"Esau for one morsel of meat sold his birthright; the golden opportunity for blessing passed, the accepted time was gone. 'For ye know how that afterwards when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected for he found no place of repentance tho he sought it carefully with tears,' Heb. 12:16, 17. Opportunities neglected are passed, *forever past*. The solemn hour of death will come and then no excuse will avail. The invitation has been given. Entreaty upon entreaty has been urged.

"The harvest is past, the summer is ended and we are not saved." "Behold, now is the

accepted time," harden not the heart. "Behold, now is the day of salvation."

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A BAD EXAMPLE

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It is rightly expected of the Christian leaders of people that they shall set fairly good examples of conduct and work before all men. Especially should such expectation be realized in those editors of religious papers who denounce thru their papers the bad examples of others. But some of these editors set very bad examples themselves in their attempts to put a stigma on certain government officials who do not belong to their own political party. Here is an editorial squib, taken from a professedly Christian newspaper: "Roosevelt is trying to explain his unmanly attack upon the Democrats who are supporting Bryan, which he made in his speech at St. Paul. But, unfortunately, his explanation is one of those which doesn't explain. He talks too much." I call this an "unmanly attack" upon the man who is thus criticised, or rather, misrepresented. I have read that explanation, and I accept it as an honest and manly one, stating what the governor really meant. But the fact is, that editor is one of those rapid and reckless men who does not hesitate to cast aspersions on those high officials who do not agree with his extreme political views. What would he say if the editors of other religious papers should treat an explanation of his in the same manner? It is very likely that he would cuttingly rebuke them for charging him with dishonesty in making such an explanation. This editor virtually charges Governor Roosevelt with untruthfulness in his explanation. If this be not so, then there is no point in his charge. And such an example is a bad one. It educates the young readers of his paper into the habit of casting suspicion on the motives and actions of good men in the highest public offices. It is bad enough for ordinary political newspapers to print evil attacks upon honorable leaders in state and nation, but it is worse when done by religious papers.

A WORLD-WIDE DELUSION

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In his address at the Ecumenical Missionary Conference Wm. Ashmore, D. D., a prominent missionary from China uttered the following phrase:

"Chinese people once emancipated from their slavish allegiance to their literary class, considering that they have no Indian caste to keep them back, counting, as we do, on the mighty power of God to be provident in the last days, now just ahead of us, we are safe in assuming that there will be such gatherings as the world has never seen."

Dr. Ashmore is engulfed in the maelstrom of popular error, or delusion along with nearly all writers on the prospects and hopes of the so-called Christianity of our day. Nearly all admit that we are in the last days

of the present age, which is, no doubt, correct, but that the age shall end up with a great reformation or revival of religion is a delusion and snare. It is contrary to prophecy, contrary to the direct teaching of the Lord Jesus when in the flesh, contrary to the revelations given to John on the isle of Patmos, and contrary to the spirit of the age in which we live. This world's end reformation delusion is found in nearly all present day denominations, both heterodox and orthodox, and no dox, such as Dr. Dowie and many others a little less presumptuous than he.

Higher critics, unitarians and universalists expect the heaven on earth to be evolved by the evolution of culture and ethics, man becoming good and righteous by the evolution of something that is within time. So-called orthodoxy, of course, believes that the work must be wrought by the power of God thru the Holy Spirit. The two classes referred to comprise nearly the whole of Christendom. They are not presumptuous, only deluded, but Dowie assumes to be the God-ordained messenger of the covenant and that thru him the reformation must be brought about, and the world made ready for the Lord's coming. If all the deluded of earth were built into a great pyramid or tower, Dowie would make a fitting climax or capstone for the great structure; he would fitly represent in concrete, compact form the ingredients of the whole. Oh, that men might die, so they could hear and see and believe God instead of hearing and seeing and believing in themselves.

Let us examine a few scriptures on the point. "And I will put enmity between thee (satan) and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head and thou shalt bruise his heel." Gen. 3:15. This is the first promise of deliverance and victory after the fall of man; in a few words it gives a forecast of the great struggle and conquest of God thru Christ, the seed of the woman; it denotes violence to the finish; the term *bruise* has nothing of the nature or element of grace or evolution in it.

"And the God of peace shall bruise satan under your feet." Rom. 16:20. But this man, after he had made one sacrifice for sins, for ever, sat down on the right hand of God.

"From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool." Heb. 10:12, 13. The writers of the Epistles grasped the thot of violence that underlies the final conquest, and John on the isle of Patmos saw the end when satan was cast out of heaven to the earth where his time is to be only short; mark what he says: "Therefore rejoice ye heavens and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea; for the devil is come down to you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he has but a short time." Rev. 12:12.

Satan has been in the world since before the creation of man, but there is a time coming when he will be here with greater fury and power than he has ever yet exercised;